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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00277 201047 Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /102 W
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R 200921 Z MAR 73
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9491
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: CENTRAL FINANCE MINISTER SUES ACCUSERS

REF: LAHORE 0230

1. REFTEL REPORTED 8 PPP REBELS INCLUDING FORMER GOP LAW MINISTER MAHMUD ALI KASURI HAD ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT ACCUSING GOP FINANCE MINISTER MUBASHIR HASAN OF FLEECING GOVT OF PUNJAB OF 1.2 MILLION RUPEES FOR " FEW LINES ON PIECE OF PAPER" WHICH WERE DESIGNS FOR HOUSING FOR PUNJAB OFFICIALS. MARCH 18 PRESS REPORTED HASAN HAD FILED CRIMINAL DEFAMATION SUIT IN LAHORE COURT AGAINST 8 SIGNERS.

2. IN SHORT, SUIT STATES ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTS FIRM HEADED BY HASAN CONTRACTED WITH PUNJAB GOVT TO PREPARE LAYOUT, GENERAL DESIGN, WORKING AND STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS AND TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION, SITE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING FOR HOUSING COLONIES NEAR SARGHODA. TOTAL COST OF PROJECTS ESTIMATED AT 30 MILLION RUPEES AND PRICE AGREED WAS NORMAL PROFESSIONAL RATE.

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3. FIRM RECEIVED .7 MILLION RUPEES AS RUNNING PAY-
MENT AS WORK PROGRESSED BUT BUREAUCRATS DESIRING
KICKBACKS HELD UP REMAINDER. IN EARLY 1971 UNDER
YAHYA, GOVT APPOINTED COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE CLAIMS AND
COMMITTEE AWARDED FIRM ADDITIONAL .5 MILLION FOR WORK
OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED BY PUNJAB GOVT, BUT PAYMENT DELAYED
ON ORDERS PAK POLICE BECAUSE HASAN OPPOSED YAHYA. BEFORE
ACTION TAKEN BY PPP GOVT, WHOLE MATTER REVIEWED BY
RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WHO RECOMMENDED PAYMENT.

4. COMMENT: HASAN APPEARS TO HAVE STRONG CASE, BUT
HE WILL HAVE TO HIRE EXCELLENT ATTORNEY TO WIN CASE IF
IT TRIED. OTHERWISE, LEGAL GIANT LIKE KASURI MIGHT
WELL OVERWHELM LOWER COURT JUDGE. DEFENSE IN POLITICAL
TRIAL LIKE THIS ALSO NORMALLY MAKES ADDITIONAL WILD
ALLEGATIONS IN EFFORT TO USE COURT AS PUBLIC ROSTRUM,
SO PPP IN FOR BAD PUBLICITY EVEN IF HASAN WINS CASE.
DECONTROL DEC 3 1, 1975
KING

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PK
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